

2. (UNAMENDED) The device of claim 1, wherein said through hole shutting cap comprises a curable agent.

3. (UNAMENDED) The device of claim 1, wherein said through hole shutting cap comprises a welding material.

4. (UNAMENDED) The device of claim 3, wherein the welding material includes one of indium (In) and lead (Pb).

5. (ONCE AMENDED) The device of claim 1, wherein said through hole is a passage which controls a pressure inside a space formed by said substrate and said flat panel prior to incorporation of said through hole shutting cap.

6. (UNAMENDED) The device of claim 1, further comprising a moisture/water absorbing agent arranged at a location inside a space formed by said substrate and said flat panel so as to not shield light emitted from said organic EL element, wherein said moisture/water absorbing agent removes moisture/water from the space.

7. (UNAMENDED) The device of claim 6, wherein said flat panel includes a moisture/water absorbing agent reception groove which receives said moisture/water absorbing agent.

8. (UNAMENDED) The device of claim 6, wherein the location is a periphery region of said substrate so as to not shield the light emitted from said organic EL element.

9. (UNAMENDED) The device of claim 6, wherein the location is a periphery region of said flat panel so as to not shield the light emitted from said organic EL element.

a2 19. (UNAMENDED) The device of claim 1, further comprising an adhesive which attaches said flat panel to said substrate.

20. (ONCE AMENDED) The device of claim 19, wherein said through hole is a passage which regulates pressure inside the organic EL display device prior to sealing of said through hole shutting cap to said through hole, and prevents non-uniform width and separation of said adhesive from said substrate.

Please ADD the following claims:

21. (NEW) The device of claim 1, wherein said through hole comprises:
a first through hole formed in said flat panel; and
a second through hole formed in said substrate.

22. (NEW) An organic electroluminescent (EL) display device comprising:
a substrate;
an organic EL element formed on said substrate, wherein said organic EL element comprises a lower electrode, an organic EL layer and an upper electrode that are sequentially stacked on said substrate;
a flat panel which encapsulates said organic EL element and is attached to said substrate;
at least one through hole formed in said substrate; and
a through hole shutting cap which shuts said through hole.

23. (NEW) The device of claim 22, wherein said through hole is a passage which controls a pressure inside a space formed by said substrate and said flat panel prior to incorporation of said through hole shutting cap.

24. (NEW) The device of claim 22, wherein said through hole comprises:
a first through hole formed in said substrate; and
a second through hole formed in said flat panel.

25. (NEW) The device of claim 22, further comprising an adhesive which attaches said flat panel to said substrate.

26. (NEW) The device of claim 22, further comprising a moisture/water absorbing agent arranged at a location inside a space formed by said substrate and said flat panel so as to not shield light emitted from said organic EL element, wherein said moisture/water absorbing agent removes moisture/water from the space.

27. (NEW) The device of claim 26, wherein said flat panel includes a moisture/water absorbing agent reception groove which receives said moisture/water absorbing agent.

28. (NEW) The device of claim 26, wherein the location is a periphery region of said substrate or said flat panel so as to not shield the light emitted from said organic EL element.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5 and 20 have been amended and new claims 21-28 have been added. Claims 1-28 are pending, of which claim 1-9 and 19-28 are under consideration. No new matter is presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sakaguchi et al. (US 5,990,615). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sakaguchi et al. appears to disclose an organic EL device having a substrate 1, an anode layer 2 formed on the substrate 1, a light emitting layer 4 and a cathode 7 formed on the anode layer 2, and a sealing member 9 "having a cap structure" attached to the anode layer 2. (See FIG. 1, column 3, lines 9-10, and column 3, lines 34-35.)

However, Sakaguchi et al. does not recite every element of the Applicants' claims 1 and 19. For example, Sakaguchi et al. fails to disclose or suggest "a flat panel which encapsulates said organic EL element and is attached to said substrate." (Emphasis added.) In other words, with reference to FIG. 3 of Applicants' application, Sakaguchi et al. does not explicitly disclose